

December 2, 2016

Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
ATTN: Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action
1849 C Street, NW
MS 3071
Washington, DC 20240

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my opinion on how the U.S. Army Corp of Engineer permits and handle their approval process in regards to infrastructural projects that impact the waters of the U.S.

As a Native American and a Civil Engineer I can understand both sides when a difficult situation arise. If I'm being honest I find myself stuck between the two sides. But I must look at the bigger picture and decide with what's right for everyone.

Being a Native American woman, more specifically from the Navajo Tribe, we have cultural traditions, items, sacred lands, and beings that show us who we are as people. For all Native American Tribes, we each have our own individual meanings, cultural values, and teachings. Majority of those values and teachings are passed down from our ancestors and the respect for Mother Earth. Without those values, we are lost as a person. We don't know who we are or where we come from. We need to hold onto those values and teachings and pass them onto future generations.

Being a Civil Engineer has given me a greater purpose to provide for everyone. Engineers design, build and maintain roads, bridges, buildings, canals, dams, and other infrastructures. All of which we use in everyday life. Not everyone realizes that a lot of planning and consideration goes into all these projects to ensure security and essentialness to each project. As an engineer, we can take an oath under what's called the "Order of the Engineer" where we practice integrity, fair dealing, tolerance, and respect. We also uphold the devotion to the standards of our profession also for future generations.

From what I understand the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is a part of the U.S. Federal agency under the Department of Defense. As a part of the U.S. Federal agency there are treaties in place that show an agreement between two parties. For example, the treaties between the U.S. and the different Native American tribes. Each treaty contains an opening statement with the words "peace between both parties". We should honor these specifications on each side.

The values from being both a Navajo Woman and a Civil Engineer is what I stand for. I think the Army Corp of Engineers should instill these values for everyone. We all want what's best for the people and the environment. Not only have these values but there are other ways to work together to at least provide a mutual understanding that what we are all doing best is for the people. Other ways such as, providing documentation for tribal members, hold meetings, let everyone know what's going on. Document how and what you've done. Go beyond what the normal distribution of getting the word out is. With how active people are becoming they will take notice and become more involved with issues and projects at hand.

We all need to be protecting the Earth along with its water and what it provides for us. We should abide to reasonable adjustments that everyone can agree on. We're engineers there are more alternatives out

there that we can all agree on. I know there are people who will agree and disagree but we should all agree on one thing and that's to protect our Mother Earth.

Respectfully,

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